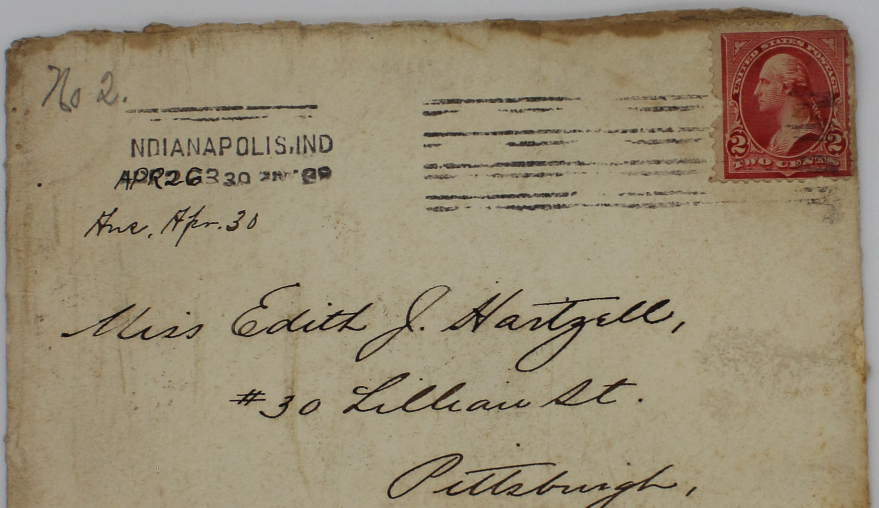

No 2.

NDIANAPOLIS, IND
APR 26 3 30 PM '99

Ans. Apr. 30

Miss Edith J. Hartzell,
#30 Lillian St.
Pittsburgh,
Pa.

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Millersville Ind.
April 25-99.

My Dear Miss Hartzell:

Last year when I wrote a man in this state, dating my letter from Millersville, he unkindly said he couldn't find it on the map and I take this means of preventing you from spending useless hours of search, by saying that it is not on the map; but is a quite celebrated hamlet at that.

I am very sorry to hear of your sad news at Cleveland and quite agree with you that it is the unexpected that always happens but unless the house falls in or you take a notion to a bicycle tour through Indiana, and incidentally pass through Millersville, I don't know just now what is going to distrust the calm, peaceful, lazy tenor of my days out here, and yet I don't seem able somehow to settle down to my hum-drum existence with that grace which has heretofore characterized my former movements and I frankly say I miss the south especially its associations of the last few weeks.

I'm sorry you suffered the last eleven days before your arrival in Cleveland and trust it was physical and not mental.

I have been wondering, would we ever hear from the sleeping car incident on our trip from Jacksonville. I would like to have the satisfaction of knowing that the gentleman (Southern) lost his job.

Wrote to the Macfarlane clan yesterday, as I had. had. no word since leaving there in St. Augustine and I want to know of their safe arrival at least.

Last but not least, I asked them had they met Miss Hartzell, and wished to be remembered to her should they do so. So please be appreciative of my thoughtfulness and return the compliment, should they be kind enough to remember my message.

I often think of "Mother Broad" and would love to get even with her in some way for her kindness to me. I wonder if I will die young like the good little boys in the Sunday School books? Dont feel much like it now.

I just interrupted myself, by catching a glimpse of some pictures and proceeded to go peeping through the drawer of this desk containing them mindful that I had promised you a likeness of myself, as you knew me or as I formally was, but I found an embarrassment of riches, and I know not which one to send, perhaps you have a choice, if so I will give you as good a description as I can of the job lot, and if you will have none of them, you will have to possess your soul in patience, till the camera does the rest.

Number I. Photo, small, taken about the year 1879, *good head of hair*, *very slight* side whiskers to bottom of ear.

Number II Cabinet, fair to medium head of hair (I mean quantity) side whiskers ditto only heavier. Date 1884.

Number III Blue print much same style as at present, only little more hair. taken in a very reminiscent attitude before old desk in old house in Vermont, date about 1895 or 6.

Number IV.

Cabinet - hair much as at present, small closely cropt mustache - date 92 or 3 or 4

These are the four ages of this man which he has by him at the present time, and except for the record of hair contained therein, I can assure you he is not proud of them. However if you don't want to change the Jit lot let me know, and I will change my few remaining hairs before a camera once more.

Seriously I was much pleased to know that you had arrived safely at Cleveland not-withstanding the sadness and pain which you met there and I will wait with considerable impatience to know of your safe arrival in Pittsburgh which I hope you will announce right speedily.

Please write me of your doings and work, not only because I am interested but because I have a slight cough and it may need change of air very soon; and I am afraid the nurses whom I know in your city might all be engaged and neither you or I would want an invalid looked after by an entire stranger; would we?

I know this is horribly long and you will think I am an awful bore, but after one more confession I am going to give you an opportunity to read the morning paper.

I had occassion to make an entry in a race yesterday and I named the standard brare Edith Hartzell, I trust she will prove worthy of the name and that the owner will not object to having her title stolen.

Yours Sincerely,
Jesse Straker